



September 1989



October 1989



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SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1989

VOL5 NO4

P3ACE is an independent organization of computer enthusiasts. We are not in any way a part of Atari, inc.

The Group's objective is to promote interest in and use of Atari Computers for the benefit of the users.

P3ACE maintains a library of public domain software, documentation, publications, and newsletters exchanged with other users groups. These are available for check-out by P3ACE members.

P3ACE assumes no liability for program accuracy or information published in the P3ACE Newsletter. Opinions expressed in the P3ACE Newsletter are those of the individual authors, not necessarily those of P3ACE, its officers, or its staff.

P3ACE membership dues are \$15.00 per years. We invite anyone interested in the group to visit our 8-bit meetings held at 7:00pm the first Wednesday of each month or our 16-bit meetings held at 7:00pm the fourth Thursday of the month. Both meetings are held at the Rustic Hills Consumer Center. It's locate at the southeast corner of Academy and Palmer Park, in the Rustic Hills Mall.

The P3ACE Newsletter is published bimonthly. It is distributed to P3ACE members as well as other Computer User Groups on an exchange basis. Material in this publication may be reproduced without permission. Credit must be given to P3ACE with the date of the issue. The exception is articles reprinted from other clubs.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

by CHRIS SMITH

The current club balance is \$379.78, which reflects the expenses of the last newsletter - \$70.27 for publication and \$25.00 for stamps. In addition, the club purchased a U. S. Doubler to upgrade the club's 8-bit disk drive to double density. This enables the librarian to employ a large collection of 8-bit public domain software recently made available to the club. Additionally, the club purchased a copy of Sam's Photofacts for the 8-bit computers, which will be available to members for trouble shooting and modification assistance. We also had to pay the Post Office box fee for the next 6 months.

We should take time to welcome a new member, Robert Luneski. Several members renewed since the last newsletter: Jerry Sundee, Lee Widener and, yes, even me.

Be sure to check the label on your newsletter, It will show you the renewal date for your dues. More than a few members are a month or two behind - so get out of the summer doldrums and bring a check to the next meeting. It's still a bargain at \$15 per year.

THE PREZ SEZ

by DAVID KOSTER

WELL....!

Not much to report right now, just got back from seven weeks in beautiful Montgomery, Alabama. Don't know much about what's happening in the P3ACE or Atari world (or the real world, for that matter!). No user group in Montgomery, I know that much.

Did hear that Renaissance Computerware closed it's doors. Hate to see that, They've been our friends for a long time. Good luck on your future ventures, y'all, and thanks for all your help and friendship!

The day after I got back Debbie took me to the Book Warehouse in the Citadel Crossing Shopping Center. Big, big place; tens of thousands of books; no order or organization. But if you look hard enough and spend some time, there are Atari computer books to be found.

Like: The Essential Atari 520ST &

1040ST Users Guide, The Musical Atari (for the 800), Computer Playground (800), Rainy Day Activities for the Atari (800) and a few others. Most are for beginners and kids. Each is 80%-off retail price, so each will cost you \$2-\$3! I bought one of everything I could find and I'll bring them to the next meeting. This place is temporary, I think,

you should try to get there, specially if you've got kids that would benefit from starter books for the 800/XL/XE.

Chris will have P3ACE picnic at his house on August 27th. Sounds good to me! He's got an article somewhere around here...

Is anyone interested in classes on anything? BASIC? Atariwriter? GEM? Bob Vixie's Deluxe ST User Seminar? Let us know, vacation's over and it's time to get serious again.

I'll catch you at the next meeting. Don't know what's cookin', I guess I'll find out when you do. Meanwhile, have fun!

ST CORNER

by JERRY SUNDEE

Hello sports fans. This is the ST corner for August/September.

NEWS FLASH the August meeting will be held on 20 August as a picnic at Chris Smith's house.

For the September Meeting, we will have a MIDI demo put on by Linda Collum, a new member of the P3ACE ST SIG who has a MIDI business here in town and teaches

MIDI. She will be demonstrating how to use Dr. T's Music Studio to input a piece of music, patch in the different instruments, and output the finished product. Linda has worked for the company that developed the Dr. T software and will a great addition to our SIG.

September will be dedicated to BASIC programing. I am trying to line up a guest speaker. We would also like to you to bring any short programs you have done in the different basics. We will try and cover GFA, LDW, HiSoft, D'Basic, ST-Basic, and others. This is a good opportunity to show off any routines you have to share.

October's program is still open any volunteer's? You may pick the subject.

8-bit Tiddirs

by JOHN SANDGREN

As you all know, the 8-Bit SIG did not meet in July because of the holiday. The August meeting should have been our opportunity to get the year rolling again, but attendance was slim, indeed. A total of four members, Ed, Matt, Glen and myself, used the evening to examine my 3.5 inch disk drive conversion, and review Keith Ledbetter's cartridge version of EXPRESS!

The 3.5 inch conversion to one of my XF551 disk drives worked out better than expected. Following the instructions provided by Innovative Concepts, and installing the optional feature, I now have one set of drive electronics feeding both the original 5.25 inch drive and the new TEAC 3.5 inch 720kb drive. Of course both drives can't be used at the same time, but I expect the 3.5 inch drive to be a helpful addition to my equipment suite. For those of you with only a single XF551 drive, you can transfer files between the two drives during Copy options by resetting the drives and switching over in place of inserting source or destination disks. With over 2800 double density sectors per teeny, tiny disk, I'm occupied lately with archiving all by active files to 3.5 inch disk in much less physical space than the equivalent number of 5.25 floppies.

During the meeting we also looked over the new Express cartridge. I ordered early, so received one of the very first issues. This version received in-the-field testing by us early users, and led to a version 1.1 which I will upgrade too. The cartridge is terrific. It has every feature that a user would want in a terminal program. It even gives you access to a DOS shell during connection, and provides a whole lot of flexibility in setting up and operating your system. If members are interested in another demo opportunity at a later meeting, let me know. Same with the 3.5 inch drive conversion.

A few closing notes. First, according to a little comment in ZMagazine, Analog Computing will merge into ST LOG magazine later this fall. I expect we subscribers will receive some sort of notice shortly informing

us that our remaining subscription will be completed by an equivalent subscription to STLog. Second, don't forget the picnic at Chris' on the 20th. Details are elsewhere in this issue. Third, I'm sorry to lose Renaissance Computerware as a local source, however limited. Finally, don't forget the club 8-bit SIG and its monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be September 5th: topic TBD. See you all there.

ST Cooling Fan

by MATT ALLARD

I recently downloaded instructions on how to install a cooling fan into my 520ST/FM from the \ector Space Bulletin board in Woodland Park. Since I was experiencing heat problems after extended use I decided to give the installation a try. The instructions were written by Anthony M. Borbely and are in the public domain. Well, here is how the installation went.

I obtained the fan recommended by Mr. Borbely. It's a 3" low noise fan Radio Shack Part Number 273-243 for \$14.95 +tax. A cheaper fan can be found locally at a wholesale parts house, but I decided to use the same fan as the author.

Since I didn't want to drill holes into the heat shield of my 520 I decided to use velcro to mount the fan. This causes a little more noise but doesn't make any permanent changes to your computer, a bonus if you don't want to pay extra for Atari to service your computer. *Important do not service the computer with the power plug attached the computer!!!!!!!!!!!!*

I removed the cover from my 520 after removing the power plug. This will void your warranty so be sure that's what you want to do. Viewing the computer from the front with the cover removed you will see the disk drive on the right rear and the power supply to the left rear. Carefully remove the power connector from the mother board. This connector is located to the front right of the power supply. Attach the wires from the fan to the +12VDC and ground connectors of the plug. I soldered these in but they could be inserted and held in place by electrical tape without problems. The 12VDC wire is

marked on the P/S board so just follow it to the connector and attach it there. The three ground wires on the plug are not marked but should be easy to find as the only other wire is a 5VDC line. Attach the connector back onto to the mother board.

Next I attached small pieces of velcro to each corner of the fan, with the the adhesive side attached. I placed the fan into the blank area between the P/S and disk drive. I placed the fan so it was blowing the hot air out and not dragging dust into the computer. This area already has several cut outs made for heat to escape so no holes had to be made. Replace the cover on the computer and apply power. You should hear the fan running and feel air coming from the area above the fan. Since I installed this I haven't had any heat problems.

I took considerable deviations from Mr. Borbley's instructions.

If you are bothered by the vibration or noise try to use Mr. Borbley's instructions. Here they are.

First, you have to obtain a suitable fan, preferably a computer cooling fan between 2" and 3" in size. A 3" fan is a snug fit, but will fit. A 2 1/2" fan would be better. I used a 3" brushless 12VDC, low noise, cooling fan (Radio Shack #273-243).

Tools needed: Phillips screwdriver, Needle nose pliers, electric drill, soldering iron, mounting screws.

Installing the fan requires complete disassembly of your ST as you will mount the fan to the mother board's RF shield. Disassembly is as follows:

- 1) Disconnect all power and peripheral cables. Place your ST face down on a towel, and remove all Phillips screws from the bottom of the case. Turn your ST face up.
- 2) Carefully remove the top half of the case. Be careful around the disk drive eject button.
- 3) Disconnect the keyboard from the motherboard. Use needle nose pliers to carefully pull the connector up. Lift out the keyboard.
- 4) The fan will mount between the power supply and disk drive covers. Use a pen or marker and outline their respective locations on the main RF shield.
- 5) Remove the screws of the power supply shield and remove the power supply. Carefully disconnect the power supply connector from the motherboard. This has 5V, 12V and ground lines (red, blue, & black wires).
- 6) Remove the disk drive shield, and remove the drive. Again, carefully disconnect the cables. Make note how they are connected.
- 7) Remove the screws holding the main RF shield assembly. There are several 'twist holds' that will require straightening with the needle nose pliers.
- 8) Remove the RF shield. If it doesn't want to come, check that you've undone all holds. Be careful around the ports in the back, as things tend to get stuck there. Edges are sharp, so be careful!

So far so good. You've got the RF



HORIZON COMPUTERS

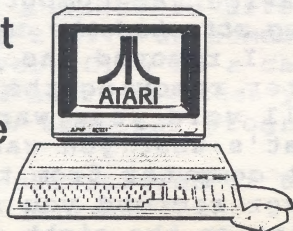
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shield in your hand. In order to exhaust the air from the ST, you got to mount the fan blowing upward. You also have to drill fan mounting holes, and holes (or hole) that the fan can draw the air through. Continue as follows:

9) Place the fan on the RF shield between the outlines of the power supply and disk drive that you marked earlier. Mark the fan's mounting holes. Drill suitably sized holes for the mounting screws.

10) Determine the diameter of the hole the fan will draw through. Draw this on the RF shield. You can then use a hole cutter to cut out this hole. It's much easier to drill a pattern of holes over this area.

11) Mount the fan to the RF shield. Be sure to mount the fan so it blows upward. (It won't be forcing dust into your machine this way.)

12) Reinstall your RF shield into your ST. Replace all holding screws, and give those 'twist holds' a bit of a twist.

13) Reinstall the power supply (don't forget the mounting screws), but don't reconnect to the motherboard. This is where you will connect the fan. The connector has 5V, 12V and ground (black) wires.

14) Plug in the power cable, turn on the power supply. BE CAREFUL!

YOU ARE NOW LIVE! Use a volt-meter (if available) to determine which lines are 5V/12V. Or, you can just test connect the fan's wires to determine the proper connection. A DC fan is polarity sensitive. If nothing happens, reverse the wires and try again. Make a note of which way to connect the wires. Shut off the power.

15) You can remove the 12V and ground wires from the connector by pressing in the small metal tabs with a screwdriver and pulling them out. At this point I just cut the fan's wires to length, stripped back about 1/2" of the insulation, and soldered them to the appropriate connector, which was then snapped back into its place in the connector. You can do the same, or use jumpers to connect to the power supply wires.

16) After connecting the fan, turn on the power supply. See that the fan is working properly. Listen for vibrations, the fan mounting screws may need adjustment.

17) If everything seems OK, reassemble

your ST in the reverse order of disassembly:

-reconnect the power supply to the motherboard

-reinstall disk drive and its cables

-replace power supply and disk drive shields

-replace keyboard and reconnect to motherboard

17) At this point, you may want to connect your monitor and boot a disk to check you haven't forgotten something. If OK, replace the top cover, and replace the bottom case screws. Fan installation completed!

I found the above instructions of great help in allowing me to modify them to my use. I would recommend this to any 520FM/1040ST owner. If you aren't having heat problems you shouldn't if you are it should alleviate them. Now for the usual Disclaimer.

NOTICE!!!The Author and this Publication accept no responsibility for any personal or property damage which may result from the installation of this modification. Install this modification at your own risk.

P3ACE ON LINE

by Ed FLETCHER

Vector Space BBS has upgraded their software and with it offers features and faster service.

Vector Space, the Wildcat BBS operated by Gene Deigle is in the process of change. Gene has the latest version of the Wildcat software and it will soon be operational in all areas of his BBS. In case you just came to town this is the BBS on which P3ACE maintains the Atari SIG with on line games, message databases, and download files for all Atari users in the Colorado area. If you have not used this BBS you should give it a try.

It is easy to log on the Atari SIG of Victor Space BBS. It is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1) Make sure that your modem is connected correctly. If you do not have a modem consider getting one. If you have to buy a new one I suggest that you look at a 1200 or 2400 baud, Hayes compatible unit for the ST. The ST has a built in RS232 serial

port so no other interface is needed. If you have any of the 8-bit Atari computers (800, XL, or XE), you will need an interface such as the PR Connection from ICD or the good old 850 from Atari. The 850 is no longer produced but you may be able to find a used one. There are also some that connect directly to the 8-bit computer; however most of these are limited to 300 baud.

Note: I'm sure you all know that Baud rate indicates the rate at which the modem can transfer data, approximately expressed in bits per second. 300 is the slowest currently in use. 1200 is 4 times as fast and 2400 is 8 times as fast. You can get started on local boards with 300 but I believe that you will want to go to 1200 or 2400 if you use national boards such as Compuserve, Genie, or others who charge by the hour or where a long distance phone call is involved. Of course the cost goes up with the speed. You can get a direct connect 300 baud modem for about \$50, or a 1200 baud direct connect for under \$100. I do not know of a 2400 direct connect. The RS232 Hayes type sell for about \$75 for 1200 to \$150 for the 2400, plus \$70 to \$100 for the required interface needed on the 8-bits.

2) If you have a terminal program that you like use it. If you do not have one may I suggest that you use one of the Public Domain or Shareware programs that are available from your P3ACE library. I like Express or BobTerm for the 8-bit computers and VanTerm3.6 for the STs. You 8-biters may have some problems finding just the right 'version' to work a specific direct connect modem, don't give up someone has the right driver. Give me a call and I will help you hunt. Now that you have a modem and a terminal program run the program.

3) Refer to the documentation or the on screen menu for features that will allow you to set your modem characteristics, and set them as follows:

Baud rate: set to 300, 1200, or 2400 to match the capabilities of your modem.

Parity: set to none.

Stop bits: set to 1.

Translation: set to ASCII:

You are now ready to turn your modem on, if it is not already on, and

dial Vector Space. All three of the terminal programs that I mentioned provide auto dialing options with auto re-dial if the busy signal is received. Refer to the terminal documentation for instructions on how to set this up. If you do not want to bother with this at this time you may use the manual dialing feature; however, the re-dialing function is very useful if the line is, as it often is, busy. It will continue to re-dial the number until the BBS line is not busy and you can do other things so long as you stay in the area so that you can respond when the modem is finally connected.

When the CONNECT message appears press return to let the BBS know that you are there and what settings your system requires. Within about 20 seconds a message will appear giving you the option of three SIGs. For Atari SIG press B. In a few seconds the BBS will tell you that it is loading Atari/P3ACE SIG. If you are too slow pressing B it will tell you that it is loading the MAIN SIG. In either case do not be concerned. You can get on through either door. It is just a bit more direct and easier through B. In either case a short introduction message will appear then the BBS will ask for your first name and then your last. Use your real name. Vector Space does not use Handles!

If you have not logged on before the BBS will recognize you as a new user and ask you for further information. Do not be afraid. The BBS can not hurt you or your computer and it is unlikely that you harm the BBS as long as you do just turn your computer or modem off. Just answer the prompts and you will be OK.

Most terminal programs have a means of capturing whatever is sent or received, I suggest that you return to the menu when the BBS asks for your name and turn the Capture or Buffer on. Then return to terminal mode to continue logging on. In this way you can just follow the prompts, save the buffer or captured file to disk and read it later at your leisure.

I believe that you will be able to follow the prompts without trouble, but just in case I will return in the next newsletter with details on some of the special features of Vector Space.

P3ACE Classifieds

FOR SALE

800XL computer, 1050 drive, 1027 printer, NEC color composite monitor, some software (Atariwriter and some games) Excellent condition. \$250 takes all, will sell things separately. Call Charlotte Winkler, 591-9814

FOR SALE

Atari 800XL computer: \$55, 1200 baud Hayes compatible modem: \$40, Mousetrap (game): \$6, L.A. Swat/Panther (game): \$5, Superman (game): \$4, Home Filing Manager (utility): \$6, Blue Team Bridge (2 disk set): \$8, Converter v1.2 (graphic utility): \$7, Converter Companion (graphic Utility): \$7. Call John Sandgren, 599-5933

FOR SALE

ATARI 130XE Computer, Two 1050 Disk Drives, Commodore Monitor, 1030 Direct Connect Modem, \$375.00. Will consider selling separately. Call Ed Fletcher, 596-1130

P3ACE Picnic

WHO: P3ACE members & friends with their friends & families.

WHAT: picnic with barbeque, in Black Forest. close to hiking, tennis and games field in county park.

WHEN: August 20 about 4pm to 7pm.

WHERE: "the Old Smith Place," 12455 donovan lane, black forest. phone: 495-0624.

DIRECTIONS:

Central/West Colo Springs-- go North up I-25 to the Briargate exit. exit only goes East. exit tees into HWY 83, turn North (left). proceed several (3??) miles to Shoup Road, which only goes East. take Shoup 2-1/2 miles to Donovan, which is a right turn (South) only, across from park and county maintenance facility. house on South East corner is the one!

East Colo Springs-- go North up Powers which tees into Woodmen Road. go East on Woodmen to Black Forest Road (about 1/4 mi). turn North (left) on Black Forest Road and go about 5 miles to Shoup Road. this is the only

stop light in Black Forest (don't be fooled by the blinking yellow light at Milam). turn left on Shoup Road (West) and go 2-1/4 mile to Donovan, which heads South. house on South East corner is the place!

Details: Call Chris Smith at 495-0624 and leave a message with the approximate number of people coming (so we can get enough tables, chairs and drinks). bring plates, cups, silverware and one dish to share!

In Closing...

by WILLIAM C. BATES

First off, I would like to thank the people responsible for the newsletter in my absence. Without them there would have been no newsletters for the last two issues.

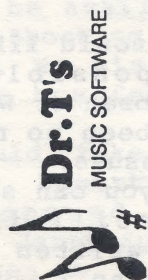
Secondly, as you can see, P3ACE's Newsletter is still in need of articles. I have written about this subject many times so I won't re-hash the same threats (and promises of glory). We need more computer related articles, if this keeps up I will start accepting articles on re-upholstering furniture and do it yourself plumbing. Enough said.

Thirdly, there are atleast three viruses floating around Colorado Springs since I have returned. I have isolated two of them already. The first one is a Mouse Inversion Virus which will invert your mouse. The second is a virus which randomly erases complete sectors of your disk. And the last virus "unformats" random parts of your disk. I have isolated the Mouse Inversion Virus and the last one I mentioned. As I wrote in a earlier article, *Practice safe computing, use write protect, always.* One virus can spread throughout an entire community in a matter of weeks if unchecked. If you have contracted a virus or aren't sure, please call me and I will be happy to come over and take care of your problem. I feel it is my obligation to the Atari ST community, to clean someone elses mess. The next issue of the P3ACE Newsletter will include an article on viruses for the Atari ST. Due to popular request.

And finally, whatever your plans are on the 20th, cancel them. We need you to support the P3ACE Picnic.

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You are invited to an Atari Picnic

Date: 20 August 1989

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Place: The Old Smith Place

Questions: Call Chris Smith